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later in the day there was a cessation of the storm, and four or five congregations united in a Peace meeting in the Presbyterian Church in the evening. It was one of the best meetings which I have ever attended. Dr. Bennett is one of the ablest speakers in the State; and for half an hour he poured out the truth in "thoughts that breathe and words that burn." I followed with statements and appeals; and the first Peace meeting ever held in the place, evidently made a good impression. Next morning we commenced making calls for the cause, and by Tuesday morning secured about \$70 in cash donations, including two of \$20 each to constitute life-members.

Leaving Dr. Bennett to finish the canvass of Portage, I proceeded westward, stopping at Kilburn City, Lemonwien and Tomah, Wis., meeting and conferring with other agents of the Society. The next Sabbath and the two following days, were spent at the last named place where the Peace cause was presented in the Baptist Church in the morning and at a large union meeting in the M. E. Church in the evening. The pecuniary results were not very encouraging, though about \$20 was secured as donations and for publications.

One reason for the limited amount was the terrible financial revulsion which has taken place in all this region, equalling or surpassing those of 1837 and 1857. The country between Portage City and La Crosse is perhaps the poorest part of Wisconsin, being extremely sandy, and the swamps being numerous and extensive. But this sandy soil was found well adapted to the production of hops, and their cultivation was extensively engaged in during 1867. The result was successful. The yield was large, the price high, and farmers found themselves growing rich rapidly. But their success one year proved, like some other ventures, their ruin the next. This success tempted those already engaged in the business, to enter into it more largely and recklessly, and others to leave their previous pursuits and embark in this. So that in a region of, say, thirty miles wide by sixty long, the hop fever prevailed virulently, and almost every one was attacked with it. Not only were the fields of the farmers, but the gardens of the mechanics and professional men, planted with hops. Hop-houses for drying and packing were built at great expense; hop-poles were purchased at the enormous price of \$10 a hundred; and men, women and children were imported by the car-loads to pick hops. Farms were mortgaged to procure money for the business; merchants sold goods to be paid for after hop-harvest, and invested largely in their purchase. Even ministers caught the hop fever.

But in 1868 there came a revulsion, sudden, unexpected and terrible. The success of the year before had so stimulated the production of hops not only in Wisconsin, but elsewhere, that the supply exceeded the demand. The price, which at one time was as high as fifty or sixty cents a pound, fell rapidly until they were sold for four or five cents. Add to this the plague of lice which destroyed the crop, so that what remained was hardly worth picking, the high price of labor, which made the cost of picking and preparing, more than the hops would bring, and the fact that almost every hop-raiser had plunged into debt in anticipation of his golden harvest, and the reason for the widespread financial ruin will be apparent. The inhabitants are slowly extricating themselves from the wreck, "sadder, yet wiser." The hop-fever and its consequences will long be remembered by the people of this region as a standing admonition that it is better to acquire wealth slowly than to peril all in an effort to grasp it by a wild adventure.

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THE PEACE OF THE WORLD.

The civilized nations of the world appear to be now in a state of profound peace. From no quarter of the earth do we hear of wars or rumors of wars. The baleful spirit of discord, violence, and blood, has given place to the white robed angel of peace. The spectacle of a universe at peace is sublime. We recognize in it the full beneficence of God, whereas the spectacle of war, with its sweeping calamities and horrors, appalls the human reason. The strongest belief in the wisdom and goodness of the Supreme Ruler is sometimes shaken by it. The masses of mankind have, in all time, regarded it with instinctive dread. Distrust, and a vacant hopelessness seize upon every human being toward whom it makes the most distant approach. Few marry or are given in marriage, population ceases and the arm of industry becomes paralyzed. As wars take their rise in the ambitions and bad passions of a comparatively few, it is surprising that the great mass of society should be so powerless to prevent their inception or stay their progress.

In the structure of European society, and in the balancing dogmas of European politics, we find causes enough for periodical wars; and they will continue to prevail until a wider education, a larger and purer liberty is disseminated through all ranks of life, until the many who are now shut out from the responsibilities of government by ignorance and long proscription are raised to the level of the few who monopolize power. The moral forces, which grow out of education and liberal culture, require free government for their efficient exercise; and there is no hope of anything like perfection in society and government, except in the unrestrained operation of these forces under the direction of the individual conscience. The progress of the nations of the old world toward the realization of self-government and individual responsibility is slow, but distinctly marked.

Our Republic is founded on the universal brotherhood of man. Its mission is peace. It invites the oppressed peoples of all nations to its shores for purposes of peaceful industry and the pursuit of happiness. Its wars, with one exception, have been defensive, and dictated by absolute necessity, involving the existence of the nation. It has no ambitions to gratify by war, and its policy should always be directed against every attempt to promote it, either in its own controversies with other nations, or by any influence which it may exert among them. The fact that we have but just emerged from an afflicting intestine conflict, almost without parallel in human history, while it should be a cause of sincere thankfulness, should also bring us to a recognition of the duties which it imposes upon us. With so many terrible battle-fields fresh in our recollection, followed by so great a waste of human life, and so much laceration of the dearest human affections, it would be strange indeed if we did not evince an animated interest in all influences and measures calculated to foster and maintain a state of universal peace among mankind.

What can we do more, it may be asked, toward the furtherance of such an object than to set the example of a people desirous of peace within their own borders, scrupulous as to the rights of other States, and watchful never to give occasion for the slightest pretext for war on their part? Within these limitations there is scope enough for the exercise of a larger amount of public virtue than usually falls to the lot of nations. But these are the most ordinary moral duties, alike of nations as of individuals, and the practice of them reflects no higher credit upon us than upon other nations which make fewer professions than we do.

If our duty as a people selected to be the standard-bearers of the advanced civilization of the world is to stop here, how sadly must we disappoint the hopes of those who are looking to us from every quarter of Christendom for ultimate help and succor. The power of this government should be a power for peace and not for war, and its highest aspiration should be to reach that point of eminence among the nations of the world which will enable it to command it. It should not only seek those things which make for peace, but it should constantly labor for peace in the great family of States, as the only security for permanent progress. It should not wait for other nations, but initiate itself such measures as tend to its accomplishment. And now in this lull of the elements of discord, will it not be remiss in its duty if it does not attempt to mitigate the code

of war, and revise the laws relating to the rights and obligations of neutrals, in order to bring them into better accord with the spirit of the age, and may it not profitably lift its voice, with whatever of present success or failure, in favor of the establishment of an international board of arbitration for the settlement of differences between States? Such a tribunal, founded in the interests of peace, would command sufficient popular support to insure respect for its decisions. At any rate, it would form an entering wedge for the final adoption of some system which shall displace the brutal arbitrament of war.—*Boston Journal, July 12.*

The special significance of the above leading editorial is the fact, that in years past this journal, of very wide circulation and prominent influence, has been somewhat noted for a different tone and spirit. We think the press is generally coming to juster views on this subject. Should *all* our 5,000 periodicals, or a majority of them, unite in diffusing the spirit and views of the above article, they would soon render war, so far as our people are concerned, morally impossible.

WANTED — \$ 100,000.

We are thoroughly convinced that the time has arrived for greatly increased efforts on behalf of the Peace cause in our country, and that unless we make them in this time of quiet, another terrible rebellion at home or war abroad will convince us, when too late, that we have let the golden opportunity pass unimproved. Our recently enlarged operations, especially in the West, have shown an interest in this cause, and a disposition to promote it, not before anticipated. We find ministers almost universally willing to co-operate, and many men and women ready to give themselves to the work as agents and colporteurs.

Our greatest difficulty at present is a lack of funds. Especially do we need the sum named above to invest in books and tracts on the subject of Peace and War. We have on our catalogue over 100 publications of great value, and ought to have a depository of them in almost every city and county of the nation, not only to supply those who wish to procure them for their own perusal or distribution, but to accommodate our agents and colporteurs who may be laboring in their vicinity. It is, therefore, proposed to raise \$100,000 to establish these depositories, and aid in putting the works in circulation.

To accomplish this, we appeal to persons of means and benevolence. We shall send this number of our paper to some whom we know to be such, in the hope that they will not only subscribe for it, but aid liberally in making up the amount needed. We desire that each person who reads this article, will consider it a personal appeal to himself or herself, just as much as if it were in the form of a written letter or personal visit. The Peace Cause must be sustained by the *large* benefactions of the few until it acquires the sympathy and support of the many, which it certainly will when they become thoroughly acquainted with it.

And how can you invest money where it will do more good than in the way proposed? The books purchased by your donation may be sold, and the proceeds invested in others, and this process repeated for a hundred years to come, so that by their instrumentality you will continue to speak for the cause long after you have "slept the sleep that knows no waking." Will you not prize and embrace the glorious privilege of thus virtually living and acting among succeeding generations?

If you cannot give to the Society outright, will you not at least *loan* it such sums as you can spare from time to time, on condition that the interest shall be paid annually in the publications of the Society, with which you can do

much good, and the principal whenever called for, if during your life, but if not wanted by you, to be a donation at your decease? You will thus have a deposit available whenever you need it, while it will be doing good until then, or for generations to come, in case your circumstances allow it to remain. One friend of our cause has at different times already deposited \$800 in this way, and we hope that others of larger means will thus lay up their hundreds and thousands of dollars where they will be both safe and useful.

Those who wish to do so, or to make direct donations to the Society, or to subscribe for the *Advocate*, can address Rev. GEO. C. BECKWITH, No. 40 Winter Street, Boston, Mass.; or Rev. A. LORD, No. 45 Madison Street, Chicago, Ill.

PRESBYTERIANS ON PEACE.—In the late General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (O. S.), Judge Ryerson, of New Jersey, introduced a preamble and resolutions, giving form and expression to the sentiment and feelings of the Christian people of the United States toward our mother country. Elder Drake, of Missouri, a *Senator of the United States*, suggested the omission of all reference to war, as *no sane man in the country has the remotest idea that such an event is among the probabilities of the future.* Judge Ryerson was happy to make the amendment; and Rev. Dr. John Hall supported the resolutions as well fitted to promote peace and good will among the nations. Such expressions as these would go to assure the people of Great Britain that the Christians of America desire peace, and will do all that in them lies to restrain the passions of men. The preamble and resolutions were then adopted unanimously, as follows:

Whereas, The existing state of feeling between this country and Great Britain is a cause of profound regret and grief to all who desire to maintain peaceful and friendly relations between these two great Protestant countries; and

Whereas, There are no causes of difference, but such as might be peacefully adjusted; therefore,

Resolved, That this General Assembly would earnestly exhort all Christians under its influence to offer fervent prayers to Almighty God, that he would by his Holy Spirit so enlighten and influence the understanding and hearts, and so guide and control the conduct of the rulers and people of both these nations, that all matters of difference may be amicably settled, and a lasting peace preserved; and this Assembly would affectionately and earnestly appeal to the Christian people of Great Britain and Ireland to join in like supplication to our common Father in Heaven.

ENGLAND DEFENCELESS!—The *London Times* says little has been gained by the costly scheme of fortifying Portsmouth, where £5,000,000 has been spent and £3,000,000 will be required. Since the alarm was first sounded England has increased her land forces in mere numbers just eighty-fold; other improvements considered, it may be said, a hundred-fold. Gunboats, turret ships and torpedoes would render a landing on her shores infinitely more hazardous than formerly. Yet the country is described as being still without any security against invasion!

COST OF ABYSSINIAN WAR—is now ascertained to have been \$48,868,000, or \$10,000,000 over the original rough estimate, and \$7,000,000 in excess of the second corrected estimates. A great part of this sum was absolutely wasted, and many scandalous transactions have been reported. Just what is inevitable in nearly every war.